

# THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER.

UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

CXLI. Vol. VI.—No. 9.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH, 1845.

[PRICE 4d.]

## THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY QUESTION IN TUNIS AND ALGIERS.

TO THOMAS CLARKSON, ESQ.

SIR,—At a moment when the French Chambers are again discussing the question of the occupation of Algeria by France, and necessary funds for the maintenance of that occupation, I am to remind you of the present state of the anti-slavery question in Tunis and Algiers, and to urge the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, whose most venerable and pre-eminently accomplished President you are, to make some decisive demonstration in favour of the unhappy beings now groaning in the bondage of a cruel slavery under the immediate but *funeste* auspices of the French Government and its Royal Ordinances. At least France and Frenchmen shall know what is our opinion of them and their Government, for continuing the accursed traffic in human beings, in spite of the severest reclamations of their own and foreign philanthropists—in spite of the holy and merciful principles of the Christian religion—in defiance of the universally acknowledged rights of human kind, and in impious violation of the laws of God, who has denounced death against every man who steals or enslaves his fellow. In the name of Christian Europe, in the name of humanity itself, we declare that if, notwithstanding, France and Frenchmen persist in maintaining the diabolical system of slavery in Algeria, to the scandal of Christendom, to the scandal of a Mussulman, neighbouring prince who has magnanimously abolished the inhuman traffic, it shall not be done with impunity of censure, or any want from us of the most emphatic and persevering condemnation.

But, sir, I shall not detain you further with a declamatory introduction, but proceed at once to a statement of facts, giving you first an account of the state of the anti-slavery question in Tunis, and afterwards that of Algeria.

I begin by stating the conduct of his Highness the Bey of Tunis, and the measures which he has successfully adopted for the extinction of slavery and the slave-trade in his territories. I cannot do better than quote the words of Sir Thomas Reade, British Consul-General at Tunis, contained in a despatch addressed to the Earl of Aberdeen, dated December 1842, and published in the Anti-Slavery Parliamentary Papers or Correspondence, of 1843. (See Class D., Barbary States, Tunis, p. 149.) These words are, "His Highness said at my last interview with him, he had long reflected on the manner of meeting the question as he could wish, by indemnifying the slave-holders for their property, and destroying at once the slavery system; but I was aware that his treasury was far from being equal to such an effort, and he could not, on the other hand, force on his subjects the injustice of liberating their slaves without an equivalent."

"That, however, he could safely adopt my proposal of declaring free all negro children after a certain date; and he would give it force of law that same morning by issuing proclamations to the authorities under him, ordering that all infants born of slaves from the 8th inst. should be considered as free, and treated as equal to any other Mussulmans."

"Your Lordship is already aware that his Highness had successfully prohibited the introduction of slaves by land and sea, as well as the public sale of slaves now existing in the regency, accompanying the prohibition by the destruction of the market where they were exposed for traffic. Those may be considered, and indeed were, preparatory measures to conciliate the spirit of the Tunisian people to the innovation, of which the last is the effective and conclusive one, and it affords me the greatest satisfaction in assuring your Lordship that in a few years slavery will only exist in the memory of man."

These paragraphs, quoted from Sir Thomas Reade's despatch, require no comment. They present to us the most extraordinary fact of the first Mussulman prince in the history of Islamism who ever abolished the traffic in the bodies, nay, even in the souls of human beings. May the memory of this merciful and enlightened prince live in the ages to come as the benefactor of his species, and the friend and liberator of the African slave!

As, however, sir, there are still slaves existing in Tunis, who, in the ordinary course of nature, will remain so for several years to come, unless liberated spontaneously by their masters; and likewise as there are sometimes slaves belonging to Mahometans not of Tunis passing and repassing this country, many cases occur daily in which the vigilance and powerful influence of her Britannic Majesty's Consul are constantly required, to protect sometimes the liberated slaves, and at other times to assist in the emancipation of fugitive slaves. It was impossible to have had a more amiable or enlightened guardian of the anti-slavery interests of Tunis than our Consul-General Sir Thomas Reade, whose untiring perseverance and signal generosity have obtained the freedom, since the final

measures of the Bey about two years ago, of no less than a thousand slaves, many of them being whole families together. Besides this, (the simple liberating of the slaves,) Sir T. Reade has spent out of his own pocket no small sum of money in providing for the various wants of those poor creatures, thus saving many of them from absolute starvation. And I cannot help adding that I hope such unusual benevolence, in so pure and noble a cause, will not pass unnoticed, either by the British Government, whom he so faithfully serves, or by the British public, so profoundly interested in promoting the abolition of the slave-trade and slavery in every part of the world.

In illustration of the unwearied perseverance in the cause of abolition, and the great influence of the British Consul-General of Tunis over his Highness the Bey, I shall take the liberty of mentioning two or three facts, which have already been reported to the Foreign Office. The first case I take from a Report in the Parliamentary Papers of 1843. (See *Barbary States, Tunis*, No. 73, page 151.) This is the case of a negro boy who took refuge in the British Consulate; and although a Maroquine subject, he obtained his liberty. He had been brought from Morocco in a Sardinian vessel, touching at Gibraltar; (another proof of the practice of transporting slaves on the waters of the Mediterranean, and these slaves touching occasionally at British ports—a matter for the still further serious investigation of our Government.) Sir Thomas Reade says of this case of the Maroquine slave:—"As the late regulations, established by the Bey, prohibited any introduction of slaves in this regency under penalty of losing all right over them, I have not hesitated in accepting him, and giving him in charge of my Vice-Consul, in whose house he is free and unmolested." In this case we see the excellence of the Bey's regulations, in declaring "that every foreign slave who should touch the territory of Tunis became immediately a freeman;" thus following the glorious example of Great Britain, who long ago declared to the universe of nations "that a slave cannot exist on her native soil." It is, however, very melancholy that these grand regulations of the Bey have an exception in favour of a powerful Christian neighbour, France, which the Bey, for the sake of peace, is most unwillingly obliged to concede, as will appear in the following case:—An Algerine slave, a negro boy, a short time ago ran away from his master on account of his extreme cruelty towards him, and took refuge in the British Consulate. The British Consul protected him, and the conduct of the Consul was approved by his Government. However, Sir Thomas Reade was obliged to keep the poor boy a sort of prisoner, to save him from the slave-holding grasp of his French Algerine master; and he determined at last to purchase the boy, at his own private expense, from the French Algerine, and give the boy his liberty. Thus the generous Consul proceeds in his noble career of doing good to the poor slaves; and many other examples could be given, but let these suffice.

It might be expected that our Consul would not only excite the jealousy of the foreign Consuls of Tunis, as actions of sterling good always do, but also opposition from those of them whose Governments have not yet abolished the flagitious traffic in humankind; and it has been so to a very great extent. The case of Mr. Gaspary is very familiar to most persons in the Mediterranean,—a notorious and most criminal slave-embarker before the anti-slavery measures of the Bey were enacted; and, nevertheless, at the time, the Goletta agent of all the European Consuls at Tunis. However, when the bad practices of this slavery agent became known to the British Government, he was forthwith dismissed. Also, we learn from a dispatch of Sir Thomas Cartwright, dated Stockholm, 13th May, 1842, and referred to in the public dispatch of Sir Thomas Reade, No. 75 of the Slave-Trade Papers of 1843, "That the Swedish Government, satisfied that Mr. Gaspary was implicated in the transaction of embarkation of slaves, had instructed the Swedish Consul at Tunis to discharge him from the office he holds, of Vice-Consul at the Goletta." But it is greatly to be regretted that the rest of the European Consuls still employ this Mr. Gaspary; and some of them, I fear, simply because of his having been dismissed by the British Government, or in defiance of his being convicted of slave-holding malpractices and crimes. I fear, also, that, notwithstanding the unequivocal dismissal of this Mr. Gaspary by the Swedish Government, Mr. Tulin, the Swedish Consul at Tunis, has the effrontery still to employ him, through the under-hand means of his (Mr. Gaspary's) clerk and nephew. How painful a sight is all this! Here we see a number of Christian Consuls in a Mussulman country, ruled over by a sovereign who had the amazing courage, in the face of all the difficulties and prejudices from his own subjects, to abolish the slave-trade, and caballing together to thwart the anti-slavery measures of his Highness the Bey, and the British representative at his court.

The Bey, nevertheless, to his immortal honour, powerfully





assisted by Sir Thomas Reade, pursues with undeviating rectitude the even course of his way: and, whilst he cannot forcibly insist upon his subjects liberating their slaves—these being their *bonâ fide* property consecrated by the usage of ages, and whilst, also, his treasury is not sufficiently abundant to purchase the slaves of his subjects, and give them their freedom, his Highness scrupulously receives complaints of all the slaves in his territories; and, whenever a master is found to have maltreated his slave, that slave is, by the severest orders of the Bey, immediately set at liberty. Moreover, in this mighty work of humanity, his Highness is most cordially seconded by many of his distinguished subjects, those especially who enjoy his confidence at court. Several Moors of distinction have liberated their slaves, in some cases to the amount of one hundred, giving them, with the inestimable blessing of freedom, small plots of ground for their use and cultivation, wherewith they may earn a goodly and independent livelihood. In this way, under the favour of an all-merciful Providence, we may reasonably hope to realize speedily the words of our Consul at Tunis, "that in a few years slavery will only exist in the memory of man" in that country.

It is time, however, sir, that we come to the statement of facts relating to slavery and the slave-trade in Algeria. You will recollect that, a few months ago, M. Le Duc de Montmorency, the president of the Institut d'Afrique at Paris, wrote a letter to Marshal Bugeaud, Governor-General of Algeria, calling upon the Marshal to adopt immediate measures for the abolition of slavery in the markets of Algiers, Oran, and Bona.

The Marshal Duke replied to this in a letter dated 4th October last, which first appeared in the London Journals, and in which he says, amongst other various, and some very egregiously foolish matters,—“That though not differing from him as to the desirableness, or even justice, of abolishing the traffic in human beings, it is not now the time for legislating on such a subject in Algeria.” To use the words of the Marshal:—“*Nous ne differons pas vous et moi que sur l'opportunité du moment.*” This good beginning has a sorry ending, and is, alas! woefully neutralized in the winding up of the incoherent Marshal; for he has the extreme kindness to tell us in a postscript:—“I forgot one argument. We desire to open commercial relations with the interior of Africa. Is this project practicable, if we deprive those distant countries of one branch of their trade?” To paraphrase a little the Marshal's postscript:—“Our war in Africa has cut off the commercial relations of Algeria with the interior of Africa. The caravans now take the routes of Tunis, Tripoli, and Morocco. We wish to restore these ancient relations between Algeria and the commerce of the Great Desert; and our best way of doing so is, by maintaining, nay, encouraging the traffic in slaves, which is a branch of the commerce of the caravans of the interior. If we abolish slavery, we shall deprive ourselves of the means of restoring these relations, which will be so beneficial in the future to our Algerine possessions.” Thus reasons the Marshal upon the most despicable slave-dealing and slave-holding principles.

But there is such a thing, or such a principle, that, whilst we do what we like with our own, we have no right, in so doing, to injure our neighbours. Now, his Highness, the Bey of Tunis, has made immense sacrifices of both interest and policy, at the reiterated instance of her Majesty's representative, for the abolition of slavery in his states. Is it, then, just, or honest, or neighbourly, of the French Government of Algeria, to enter into an invidious and formidable competition with the Bey, simply because his Highness has done a great act of mercy towards the poor African slave? Shall a European and a Christian power drive out of the field of fair and lawful commerce a Mussulman prince, who has set an example of justice and mercy to all the Mussulman princes in the world, in liberating his own slaves throughout his states, by revivifying, encouraging, and maintaining this detestable traffic? I ask, indignantly, is *this* the mission of the French in Africa? Is this the recompense to the British Ministry, for having “no objection to make” to the occupation of Algeria by the French? Shame to Christendom, and to Christian Europe! Injustice and ingratitude towards the enlightened Mussulman prince in Tunisian Africa! This is not all, sir,—the conduct of the French Marshal might endanger the great work of emancipation in Tunis. Happily, his Highness the Bey is a young man, and, with a gracious Providence watching over him, he may be spared to see the glorious day when not a single slave will deform the society of his fertile and beautiful dominions. Nevertheless, who does not see that some Tunisian merchants may murmur and complain, that the Christians and Mussulmans of Algeria buy and sell slaves, and that the merchants of Soudan and Central Africa, who ought to come to Tunis and purchase goods, go to Algeria, because there they can take with them slaves to exchange for merchandise? Is it possible, sir, for your Society to see such monstrous injustice practised by one state towards another, because, forsooth, one of them has been so humane and so noble as to abolish a traffic of crying iniquity and inhumanity, without remonstrating with the Government of the King of the French? And I might add, why are all the anti-slavery labours of her Majesty's consuls in Northern Africa thus to be placed in jeopardy, and all the money of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to be thus wasted, because a French Governor-General of Algeria has taken it into his head to adopt, or suggest, so unjustifiable, so criminal a means of re-establishing the commercial relations of Algeria with the interior of Africa?

I shall now, sir, endeavour to prove that the terms “re-establishing the slave-trade,” are in substance correctly applied to the project

of Marshal Bugeaud; and from a most unprejudiced source, at any rate a source *not English*, and therefore an apparently better authority on a French question. M. Subtil, a Frenchman, who resided many years on the coast of the Syrtes and other districts of Tripoli, principally with the object of exploring for sulphur, has lately published a “Memoire” in the “*Revue de l'Orient*,” (see the Number for last October,) upon the city of Ghadames, which is the grand entrepôt of the commerce of the North-eastern Sahara, situate between Tripoli and Tunis, on the borders of the Great Desert; and, according to this gentleman, under protection of the Porte, being also garrisoned by Turkish troops. In this “Memoire,” M. Subtil states most fully and explicitly,—“that, on account of the abolition of slavery in Tunis, and the occupation of Algeria by France, the infamous slave-trade of the interior had greatly diminished:—that, moreover, the merchants of Ghadames, who formerly had an immense share in this traffic, had given it up as a bad speculation; that the number of free negroes daily increased in Ghadames and other cities or oases of the Desert, and were preferred to slaves: that the emigration of free negroes from central to northern Africa was greater in proportion as the traffic in slaves was less: that many towns and villages had been formed of these emigrants in the provinces of Tripoli: and that, in fact, everything announces the gradual, but speedy extinction of this inhuman traffic.”

Now, this important, and, for humanity's sake, most cheering statement of M. Subtil, appears, from the evidence adduced, established beyond doubt. I have, therefore, sir, every right and reason to say, that the commercial schemes of the Governor-General of Algeria (however patriotic for lessening the expense of the colonial budget) amount to the baneful attempt of re-establishing this odious traffic through the dreadful deserts of the boundless Sahara, where full ONE-THIRD of the poor slaves brought across the “*middle passage of this ocean of sands*” invariably perish. But will Christian Europe permit France to establish herself in Northern Africa? for and by the maintenance of this system of periodic and wholesale murder? Apart from Marshal Bugeaud's pro-slavery projects, the present state of slavery in Algeria is sufficiently afflicting, and covers with shame French European civilisation.

For a long time the fact was not believed in England. But some French writers, feeling the disgrace insufferable, were at last determined to break silence, and the daily press followed in support of these isolated writers, bearing their testimony against this iniquity, which indelibly sullies the French arms and the French Government in Africa. I shall content myself with citing a single, but very respectable authority. M. Desjobert, a French deputy, says, in his brochure entitled “*L'Algerie en 1844*”—“We should have thought that France had renounced the idea of counting *men* amongst the number of its merchandise, since experience has proved that to buy prisoners from the African people was to provoke them to war: it was to render still more merciless the barbarism of their chiefs; it was to sow in the bosoms of their families the most selfish and most infamous passion. But, nevertheless, M. Lawrence, senior director of African affairs, speaks to the ministerial commission instituted in January, 1842, of projects upon slavery. He thinks one could not hinder the natives from having slaves (*noirs*.) In this respect,” M. Desjobert adds, “the Regency of Tunis marches quicker than France in the way of civilisation. Slavery was abolished there two years ago.”

The latest fact recorded by the periodical press, is the case of the native Jews, of the province of Oran, being extensively engaged in the traffic of slaves. The journal called *L'Afrique*, in its number of the 2nd December last, mentions that the chief magistrate of the Jews resident at Oran, notwithstanding he has received a stipend from the French Government, and is therefore a *bonâ fide* government employé, was very actively engaged in this traffic; and that, although this fact was fully known to the French authorities in that city, they connived at it. Indeed, a French military captain of that city very lately purchased a little slave, a negro boy, for the delicious gratification of his wife; this boy was purchased for about 200 francs, and the only punishment which the captain can receive is, that, in the event of the boy running away, he cannot claim him by right, or by law. I shall conclude my statement of facts respecting the slave-trade in Algeria by relating a fact which occurred last August in Oran, showing, that under the auspices of French military occupation, the poor slaves in Algeria are not a little better treated than in the most slaveholding countries in the Indies or America. This was the case of a negress, who ran away from a new master to whom she was sold against her will. The old master then sold her again and again, and every time she ran away, and returned home to him. He then lost all patience, seeing that his negress would not be sold, and he should lose the purchase money; and, seizing her with horrid violence, he tied her up by her heels, stark naked, and with head downwards to the floor, and in this outrageous position the beast in human shape beat her till she was senseless!! This piece of fiend-like wickedness was repeated during several days, and was never reported to the police authorities; or, if so, no notice was taken of it whatever.

I ought to observe here, before closing this hideous picture, that the native Jews, under the Turks of Algiers, were never permitted to trade in or hold slaves. It is altogether a new privilege, which the native Jews have acquired under the sanction of the French administration, as propagating European civilisation in Africa. The native Jews also purchase many negroes for the infamous purposes of prostitution, and these wretched women are registered as such at the police. Unutterable shame to Christendom!



You well know, sir, that, in the early struggles for emancipation in England, the clergy took a very active and prominent part in the great work. How different is it in French Algeria! There the priests, both Catholic and Protestant, abet or excuse the Governor-General in his pro-slavery measures, thus lending the sanction of the priesthood to a traffic denounced by the holy book of Christians as punishable with death!

But it is necessary to conclude. The subject, however agreeable it may be in its Tunisian aspect, is still very painful, viewed in its relation with Algiers, and the conduct of men calling themselves Christians in that country. We still, however, will hope, that there is sufficient anti-slavery feeling in France to rouse the public attention, and excite in them sentiments of humanity towards the African race, and to urge the French Government to wash away this dark stain upon the fortunes of their army in Northern Africa. I repeat it, we will hope, that nor France nor Frenchmen can desire the revivifying and the re-establishing of the wearing-out, dying-out, and odious traffic in slaves on the Saharan frontiers of Tunis, Tripoli, and Algiers; and that, as an immediate consequence the pro-slavery projects of the Governor-General may be nipped in the bud, and the friends of humanity and the African race may be reassured and encouraged to go on in their good, their just, and holy work of emancipating the poor desolate slave of these unfriendly and benighted regions. I have the honour to be, sir,

A CORRESPONDENT OF THE BRITISH AND  
FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

#### THE STATE OF WEST FLORIDA AND THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

We mentioned in our last that the letter of sympathy some time ago addressed by the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to Captain Jonathan Walker had given rise to some grave proceedings in the Legislature of West Florida. We now learn by the papers that this document was taken from his person after an unsuccessful attempt to escape from confinement, and transmitted to the Governor by the Marshal of the State. We have received also the official Report presented to the Legislature by the joint Committee of the two Houses to which it was referred, and we think it of sufficient importance to give it entire.

##### REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CASE OF JONATHAN WALKER.

Mr. Anderson, from the Joint Select Committee, to which was referred the communication of his Excellency the Governor, and accompanying papers, respecting Jonathan Walker, made the following report:—

The Joint Select Committee, to which was referred the Governor's communication in relation to the correspondence of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society with Jonathan Walker, with the accompanying papers, beg leave to report—

That they regard the right of defining crimes and passing laws to prevent or punish such crimes as amongst the clearest and most valuable rights of a free people, and the interference of foreign states with the exercise of that right, as insulting and unwarrantable, and that it should be repelled promptly and indignantly.

This principle, so undeniable in the abstract, acquires additional interest and importance from the circumstances of the particular case to which the duty of the Committee has directed its attention. It can no longer be denied that systematic and powerful influences are at work throughout a large portion of Europe and many parts of our own country, the direct tendency of which is to impair our rights of property, and to involve ourselves and the unconscious objects of this false philanthropy in one common ruin. A vicious fanaticism, clothed in the garb of religion, is prowling around our borders, and by means of its more reckless and abandoned instruments, invading our inmost sanctuaries, whose direct purposes, scarcely concealed, are to deluge our very hearth-stones in blood, and to rear an altar to its false principles upon the ruin of all that is precious to us as freemen and dear to us as men.

The most sanguine and forbearing amongst us must long since have been painfully convinced of the existence of this unfriendly feeling towards us among some of our own countrymen; and the public mind throughout the whole of the Southern States has been roused to a state of distrust and watchfulness, which augurs ill for that harmony which is becoming between members of the same great family. The South has no cause for self-reproach, growing out of this feeling of estrangement. Their position has been eminently that of self-defence; and they are prompted to maintain that position by every consideration of duty and of self-interest. They would be recreant to themselves and unworthy of the rank which they hold among the nations, if they were to falter in the assertion of their rights and in their resistance to this foul injustice.

In the unhappy dissensions which have grown up between ourselves and our countrymen of the North there are, however, considerations prompting us to still longer forbearance. It is not easy to forget that we are brothers, enjoying the same great heritage of liberty which was purchased by the blood of our common sires. We are reluctant to let go our confidence in the returning sense of justice of those who are bound to us by such endearing ties, and we will not willingly dis sever from our soil the blood-honoured fields of Lexington, of Bunker Hill, and of Saratoga—we will "suffer long and be kind"—will bear many things, hope many things, and endure many things. And we do this the more readily because there is no hesitation amongst us as to the limits of this endurance. Among the millions of bosoms that are throbbing under a sense of the injury and outrage which have been so wantonly inflicted upon us, by our Northern brethren, though there are many that plead for longer forbearance and forgiveness, there is probably not one that does not feel that here is a point beyond which forbearance would be ruin and dishonour—

there is not one that would not unhesitatingly fling to the winds all the cherished recollections of the past, and all the exulting hopes of the future, rather than bow down in slavish abasement to the demands of those who seek to sacrifice us upon the shrine of their unholy fanaticism.

But the feelings which thus prompt us to forbearance under the injury done to us by the abolition incendiaries of the North, teach no such forbearance towards the foreign incendiaries who intermeddle with our domestic institutions, and seek to interfere with the administration of our laws. We regard their false and intrusive philanthropy with unmingled resentment, and it becomes us to resist at once, and in the most effectual manner, all their efforts to control us in our internal police. The Committee regret that the only means which are within our reach to counteract their hostile designs, and to avert danger from ourselves, consist of increased penalties for the violation of our laws, and in stricter police arrangements in regard to the negro population. It is to be regretted that the punishment for such flagrant crimes should fall rather upon the less responsible agent, who is induced by a desire of gain or by an ignorant fanaticism to come among us on his unholy crusade, than on the more wicked and intelligent felon, who plots his cowardly schemes of mischief in the security of a foreign country; and still more is it to be regretted that we are constrained, in self-defence, to cut off some of those indulgences to our slaves, which has made their situation hitherto one of happy contentedness.

But the responsibility is not with us. Heavy is the accountability of the abolitionist, both in Europe and at the North, not so much for the happiness and harmony of a great nation which he has disturbed and perilled by his ignorant and wicked intermeddling with affairs of which he knows but little, as for the new burdens which he has imposed upon the slave, and the new obstacles which he has interposed to the gradual amelioration and improvement of his condition.

Self-protection is the primary law, and we shall stand justified in the eyes of God and of man, in defending ourselves from unjust aggressions, though the means of safety may bring punishment and suffering where it is not most deserved.

The crime of negro stealing has heretofore been punished by our laws with exceeding leniency, and in the very striking case to which the attention of the Committee is now directed, where the offence was flagrant, and the evidence conclusive, the punishment of the guilty man was so slight, as to prove that heretofore, in punishing this crime, we have not in any degree been moved by undue resentment. Henceforward we are compelled to regard negro stealing, by the instruments of the abolitionists, as a crime of a different character. It is no longer a mere larceny, but a species of treason against the state—a direct assault upon the very existence of our institutions. The negro stealer, too, is now armed with new powers—he is upheld, encouraged, aided, and almost canonized, by men in high places, whose commendation and sympathy inspire new vigour and fresh perseverance. The thief is taught to regard himself as an agent in the hand of Providence, and he encounters danger with the spirit of a martyr. Slight punishments will not deter him from renewed offences, for he is taught to believe that his sufferings excite the sympathies and bring down upon his head the blessings and the prayers of the Christian world.

In obedience, then, to the rule which requires that the punishment of an offence should be commensurate with the difficulty of preventing it, as well as its enormity, the Committee feel constrained to recommend that the crime of negro stealing and of aiding and abetting negro stealing, be made punishable hereafter by death. They make this recommendation not lightly, but with a deep and impressive sense of the responsibility which they assume; but they feel that the responsibility, in its heaviest extent, rests elsewhere. They believe that such a law is necessary to the safety of the country in the new aspect in which this crime must now be regarded; and if blood be the penalty which the negro stealer has to pay for his crime, it will be upon the skirts of those whose incitements and applause have driven him to his doom.

As there is a bill now before the Senate making negro-stealing punishable with death, the Committee content themselves on this head with earnestly recommending its enactment into a law\*.

Some of the circumstances developed in this case of Jonathan Walker have satisfied the Committee that there are evil disposed persons amongst us who permit themselves to be made channels of intercourse between the convicted felons in our prisons and their accomplices abroad, and in other ways lend their aid to the dissemination of unsound and dangerous doctrines on the subject of slavery. Towards such offenders, the law should be unsparring in its penalties. To punish such of this class as are found amongst us with sufficient severity, and exclude those who may be officiously intruded upon us, its most solemn sanctions should be invoked; but the Committee apprehend that while we remain in a Territorial Government some embarrassment might arise in the enforcement of police laws adequate in their rigour to the suppression of the mischief; and as we are about to assume, under the blessing of God, the privileges and the powers of a free sovereign State, the Committee recommend that this subject, together with that of new police regulations, with regard to the slaves themselves, be postponed till the meeting of the first General Assembly of the State of Florida, and they earnestly invoke its serious attention to the whole subject in all its relations and bearings.

The Committee having considered all the subjects referred to them, beg to be discharged from their further consideration.

WALKER ANDERSON, *Chairman of the Senate Com.*  
I. FERGUSON, JUN., *Chairman of the House Com.*

##### DOCUMENTS.

*Executive Department, Tallahassee, Feb. 15th, 1845.*

"To the Senate and House of Representatives:

"With my opening message, I submitted a letter from the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in relation to a certain Jonathan Walker, convicted of stealing negroes, and who was then, and is now, confined in the jail of Pensacola for said outrage; to which I again par-

\* Our correspondent adds, this bill has become a law, and will certainly be enforced.



ticularly invite your attention, in connection with the accompanying letters, which I received by the last mail from the Marshal of the United States, for the Western District of Florida. From their perusal, you will see that the 'British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society for the Abolition of Slavery and the Slave-trade throughout the World,' has been clandestinely co-operating with the authorities of Massachusetts, in fiendish machinations against our domestic institutions. Under such circumstances, farther forbearance on our part, not only ceases to be a virtue, but would be in effect an abandonment of our vital interests.

"I therefore recommend the subject to your dispassionate investigation, with a decided opinion on my own part, that the time has arrived, when Florida has a right—nay, would be false to herself, were she not to demand from the Federal Government a prompt enforcement of the guarantees of the Federal Constitution.

"I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,  
"JOHN BRANCH.

"As the original letters are herewith sent, the Honourable Senate will please transmit them to the House of Representatives after such orders shall be given, as are deemed necessary concerning them, together with this communication.  
"J. B."

"*Marshal's Office, D. W. Florida,  
Pensacola, 9th Feb., 1845.*

"Dear Sir,—Jonathan Walker, imprisoned in this city for stealing slaves, made an attempt last evening to break jail, but was discovered before he could make his escape; on his person was found the inclosed communication from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, which document might be viewed by some, of little importance; but to my mind, taken in connection with the other facts, is further evidence of the interference of a foreign power with our institutions, under the fictitious garb of anti-slavery. Actuated by this impression, I transmit this specimen of British vituperation to your Excellency's inspection.

"I have the honour to be, sir, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"EBEN DORR, U. S. Marshal D. W. Florida.

"His Excellency Gov. Branch, Tallahassee."

"BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE-TRADE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

"27, New Broad-street, London.

"At a meeting of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, held at No. 27, New Broad-street, on Friday, Oct. 4, 1844, George Stacey, Esq. in the chair, it was resolved unanimously—

"That considering the enormous wickedness of American slavery, whether viewed in relation to the iniquity of its principle, which deprives nearly three millions of human beings of their personal rights, or to the atrocity of its practice, which subjects them to the deepest degradation and misery, this Committee feel it to be their duty publicly and warmly, to express their sympathy with those devoted friends of humanity, the Rev. C. T. Torrey, and Captain Jonathan Walker, who are now incarcerated in the prisons of Maryland and West Florida, for having aided, or attempted to aid, some of their enslaved countrymen in their escape from bondage; and to assure these Christian philanthropists, that they consider the cause for which they may hereafter be called to suffer as honourable to them as men and as Christians; and the laws under which they are to be arraigned, as utterly disgraceful to a civilized community, and in the highest degree repugnant to the spirit and precepts of the gospel.

"On behalf of the Committee,

"THOMAS CLARKSON, President.

"JOHN SCOBLE, Secretary.

"To Capt. Jonathan Walker, Oct. 8, 1844."

"27, New Broad-street, London, Oct. 9, 1844.

"Dear Sir,—The painful circumstances in which you have been placed by your humane and Christian attempt to deliver some of your fellow-men from the sufferings and degradation of slavery, are not, as you will perceive by the accompanying resolution, unknown to the Abolitionists in Great Britain. They truly sympathise with you in your affliction; and they trust that the efforts which are to be made for your deliverance from the power of evil men and evil laws, will be succeeded by the divine blessing.

"Your faith and patience may be greatly tried, but I trust you will be divinely sustained through the conflict, and that you will have a large share in the prayers, as well as in the sympathies and assistance, of your friends.

"Trusting that you will meet with becoming fortitude your approaching trial, and that, whatever may be its issue, you may find the 'joy of the Lord to be your strength,'

"I am, dear sir, with great respect and esteem,

"Yours very truly,

"JOHN SCOBLE, Sec.

"To Capt. Jonathan Walker."

It is evident from these papers that the expression of British sentiment does not fall powerless on Southern slaveholders; and, notwithstanding the immediate resentment of it, we are convinced its ultimate effect will be salutary. Resolved as, at the present moment, the slaveholders of West Florida may be to hang the next person who comes under suspicion of aiding a slave to escape, and steeled as they may now imagine themselves to be against the indignation which would be expressed by the whole civilized world against such an act, we do not believe them to be so deeply degraded. Of this, at least, we are well assured, that the severest possible condemnation of slavery itself is written in these bloody laws; and that it wants only an execution or two under their authority to arouse a feeling of horror, and a spirit of determination, before which the entire system would be forced to give way.

## NOTICES.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER is an Evening Paper, published on alternate Wednesdays, and may be had of all News-venders throughout the country. Price 4d., or 8s. 8d. per annum. A few complete volumes are on hand.

Subscriptions and Donations to the Society should be forwarded to the Treasurer, (G. W. Alexander, Esq.) at the Society's Office, 27, New Broad-street, London.

All Communications for the Editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* must be sent to the Office of the Society, as above.

## The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, APRIL 30, 1845.

WE have the pleasure of laying before our readers the following details of the progress of Mr. G. W. Alexander, in continuation of our last:—

"April 14. Attended a public meeting at Edinburgh, in one of the places of public worship, the Lord Provost in the chair. Several ministers, including one who had laboured for fifteen years in Jamaica, took a part in the proceedings. The subject of slavery in the United States of America was prominently dwelt upon by W. L. Alexander, Independent minister, in an able speech. Other highly interesting addresses were delivered. A petition against Coolie and African emigration was agreed to, and a resolution expressive of sympathy for those persons in the United States who are suffering imprisonment for aiding slaves to escape.

"April 15. Met a few female friends of the anti-slavery cause, when it was determined that they would renew their labours. In the afternoon proceeded to Glasgow, and had a conference with the Committee of the Emancipation Society in that place. Our friends at Glasgow, some months since, passed resolutions expressive of sympathy for those who were at that period incarcerated in the southern states of the American Union, for assisting fugitive slaves. They have concluded to renew a similar expression as respects all who are now suffering imprisonment for the same cause. They have also determined to petition against the abuses that have occurred in Coolie and African emigration. It is highly interesting and satisfactory to find that the Committee of the Edinburgh Anti-Slavery Society, and the Glasgow Emancipation Society, have directed their attention to the conduct of the Free Church of Scotland in receiving the gold of American slave-owners, and to the apologies offered by some influential members of that body for the slave-holders and abettors of slavery in the United States. Publications have been issued at the request of the Societies named, or with their aid, setting forth the dreadful and wholly indefensible character of American slavery; and I confidently anticipate that the public attention which has been directed to that subject in Scotland, by the painful circumstances connected with the proceedings of the Free Church, will be overruled to serve that cause which it appeared likely to injure. How delightful and cheering is it to believe, that the anti-slavery cause is one which is not of man, but of God, and that the blessing of the Almighty will rest upon it in America, as it has done in our own land! We are, indeed, aware that human weakness and imperfection have been at times seen amongst its friends, as they have been found largely among its opponents; but this does not affect the Christian character and imperative duty of judicious, earnest, and persevering efforts for the deliverance of a cruelly oppressed class of our fellow-men.

"April 16. Attended a public meeting at Carlisle, Joseph Ferguson in the chair. The committee at Carlisle had petitioned on the subject of Coolie and African emigration; and had passed resolutions of the kind referred to in the notice of proceedings at Edinburgh and Glasgow. This conduct of the committee was sanctioned by the meeting, on being submitted to it for approval or otherwise.

"April 17. Meeting at Kendal, held in the Friends' Meeting House, in which several persons, including our friend W. D. Crewdson, took a part. An elderly Wesleyan minister, who had resided at Bermuda during the period of slavery, confirmed statements that had been made, relative to the importance of using a moral influence for the abolition of slavery in slaveholding countries, rather than trusting for the accomplishment of that object to a competition between free and slave labour. Remarks on this subject were called forth by some questions and remarks addressed to G. W. Alexander.

"April 18. Met female friends at Kendal, where a ladies' association has long existed, and has not been inactive. A disposition to increase their efforts in the anti-slavery cause was manifested.

"April 21. Morning meeting at Lancaster, in the Friends' Meeting House, when Edward Dawson and other friends were present. It was determined to form an Anti-Slavery Society, and put in circulation some copies of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*. It was determined to adopt a resolution expressive of sympathy with imprisoned friends of the slave in the United States of America. Evening meeting in Friends' Meeting-house, Preston. M. Satterthwaite, George Edmondson, and Charles Wilson took a share in the proceedings. The committee at Preston had previously adopted a petition on the subject of Coolies and African emigration, and had passed resolutions relative to our imprisoned friends in America. A resolution on the latter subject was nevertheless submitted to the meeting, and, as on all similar occasions, had its unanimous concurrence.

"April 22. Met a few female friends at Preston, when it was determined to form a Ladies' Anti-Slavery Association.

"I think some damage has been done to the anti-slavery cause in some places that I have recently visited by statements contained in some popular works, which represent the abolition movement that has so long existed in this country as having been productive of little benefit. This is affirmed on the ground of the great extent to which slavery and the slave-trade still exist, and the dreadful enormities with which they are accompanied. It should, however, be recollected, that the magnitude of these



dreadful evils—great as they now are—would have been far greater had not slavery been abolished in a large number of British colonies, and in the northern states of the American Union; and that the African slave-trade would embrace a larger region for its nefarious deeds, were it still prosecuted by all the great maritime countries that were once involved in that horrid traffic. Neither should it be forgotten that a blow has been struck at the system of slavery by the example of Great Britain in emancipating nearly 800,000 slaves, that will probably greatly accelerate its universal downfall. It is cheering to me to reflect upon the rapid growth of anti-slavery principles—or, in other words, of Christian views on the subject of slavery, in almost every country in which slavery is yet sanctioned; and to find everywhere in my travels in England and Scotland—hearted men that feel for the cruel sufferings of the bondman, wherever he is to be found, and who are willing to exert themselves to promote the great objects of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade throughout the world.

"April 23. Met the committee of the Liverpool Anti-Slavery Society, and the Ladies' Negroes' Friend Association of the same place. It was satisfactory to find that there are at Liverpool some who take a lively interest in the welfare of a deeply oppressed race. I cherish the hope that more active efforts will be made than has recently been the case, to promote the objects of the Anti-Slavery Society in the great commercial metropolis of the north.

"April 24. At Manchester met a considerable number of members of the Society of Friends, who were addressed on the importance of continuing to labour on behalf of the slave—a cause in which the society to which they, with myself, belong, has long taken so useful a part. It was also suggested that pains should be taken to increase the number and efficiency of the committee of the Anti-Slavery Society at Manchester, and to organise a Female Anti-Slavery Association. My labours here ended. I have in a former letter expressed the gratification afforded me by evidences, in almost every place visited, of the interest felt in the great and Christian work of the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade. At the same time I may express my conviction of the advantage which would result to the anti-slavery cause, from the existence of societies in connection with the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society as extensively as possible throughout the country. This is needful in order to maintain a proper knowledge and interest in subjects of the deepest importance to humanity, and to aid the parent society in the great and arduous work in which it is engaged. There are hopeful indications that public opinion is increasingly directed against the continuance of slavery, in nearly every civilized country implicated in that criminal system. At such a time it would be painful indeed, did the friends of the slave in England decline in any degree from their former zeal and efforts in this righteous cause."

Our home readers, who know how ordinary an affair is the presentation to the British Parliament of petitions against the support of religion by the state, will learn with surprise that a similar proceeding in British Guiana has caused quite a commotion among the legislators of the Combined Court. Two petitions of this tenor, the one by the Rev. E. A. Wallbridge and his congregation, the other by the Rev. Joseph Ketley, having been recently presented to that body, they have been construed not only into a "studied insult" of the legislature, but into sedition itself. One honourable member gravely affirmed, that to present such petitions was "against the law;" and another stated it to be "inflammatory, and tending, perhaps, to sedition." Mr. Rose went so far as to propose that the petition of Mr. Wallbridge (Mr. Ketley's escaping by the accident of not being signed,) should be referred to the law-officers of the crown, for their opinion whether the language was seditious or not, courteously adding, that he did not wish to go farther until their opinion was before the Court; and this motion, notwithstanding a sensible speech against it by the Attorney-General, was actually carried! So, perhaps a prosecution may be involved in the further proceedings. Even our friend of the *Colonial Gazette*, who, we see, is very angry with us on another account, maintains that this is very bad policy. It is clearly also an outrage on all liberty, in which latter view alone we notice it. And if a little reflection does not bring these very sensitive gentlemen to a different mind, there can be no doubt of their receiving from Downing-street a *quietus* for so morbid and absurd an irritability.

In another column we have inserted an interesting extract from the *New York Courier and Enquirer*, in relation to the prospects of the annexation scheme in Texas. We rejoice to see that a strenuous opposition is likely to be made to it.

We observe in the papers an admirable letter from the venerable Thomas Clarkson to the people of the Northern States of the American Union, in relation to the annexation of Texas, and encouraging them to oppose, in such manner as they yet may, the consummation of that iniquitous measure.

We regret that we are not able to find room in the present number of the *Reporter* for extracts from the recent Report of the Land and Emigration Commissioners, in relation to the importation of Indian labourers into Mauritius and the British West India Islands. We may venture, however, to say that, bare as is the information which the Report contains, it nevertheless presents several startling facts, which, we think, should lead the Government to pause before it contracts additional responsibility in connection with the supply of this species of labour to the British emancipated colonies.

From the Report, so far as Mauritius is concerned, the following facts may be gathered. First, that in a period of 21 months, namely, from 1st January, 1843, to the 30th September, 1844, upwards of 44,000 Coolies were introduced into the island under the bounty system, which must have cost the Colony upwards of

£300,000, exclusive of the premium paid the importers by the planters, which may be reckoned at from 10 to 15 dollars per head. Secondly, that the mortality upon the voyage was no less than 480, which greatly surprises us when we recollect that the Coolies, previously to their departure from India, were subjected to medical inspection by Government, had the care of a medical officer on board, and were selected from that part of the population whose average age gives the lowest rate of mortality. Thirdly, that, of the invalids placed in the public hospital on arrival, 154 died from diseases engendered on the voyage; and that, subsequently to their being placed on the estates, 3,288 rapidly followed their ill-fated companions to the grave!

We have thus a loss of life, on the importation of 44,000 Coolies, of nearly 10 per cent. in the course of one year and three quarters during which it was going on, notwithstanding the reputed vigilance with which the whole affair was superintended by the authorities in India and Mauritius, and the array of immigrant agents, protectors, medical men, and stipendiary magistrates, employed to prevent abuses, and to secure the immigrants from injury and fraud.

Of course, causes must be suggested to account for this enormous waste of life on an undertaking which Lord Stanley pledged himself should be unexceptionable throughout all its stages, and every part of which was carried on avowedly, on the part of the Government, with scrupulous care. But what are the causes assigned? Change of habits on board the emigrant vessels, dysentery consequent on that change, and bilious remittent fever, which is reported to have been prevalent in the island. But the Governor is not satisfied with his own statement, and has therefore drawn "the attention of the local Legislature to the subject of the labourers' wages, their diet, lodging, and hospital treatment;" and he hopes "much good will ensue from the precautionary measures adopted." Precautionary measures! Why, we were taught to believe that such measures had been taken before the Coolies were introduced into the colony; at least, the British public and the British Parliament were distinctly promised that they should be taken. But we now learn that they are to be taken after a frightful waste of human life has occurred, and when they could no longer be delayed. To call them precautionary measures is absurd.

From the same Report we learn that there had been a mortality of 60 Coolies on 410 on their return voyage to India. Of course, this also has given rise to inquiry; but, had precautionary measures been taken to prevent the vessels which conveyed these returning emigrants to their homes from being over-crowded, as they confessedly were, this large amount of deaths would not have taken place!

The total number of Coolies in the colony was estimated by the Governor in March, 1844, at 50,000, of whom 40,000 had arrived since the recommencement of immigration in 1843. It is probable that since that period 10,000 additional labourers have been added to the number.

THE editor of the *Colonial Gazette* cannot whitewash the moral character of the West India planters, by casting dirt at either Mr. Wallbridge or Mr. Philippo. No doubt these devoted men are far above the reach of his shafts of calumny. But, even if it were not so, how could their vices establish a claim to virtue on the part of the planters in general? This is one of the most pitiful artifices of polemical writing. Our contemporary values his time too highly, he tells us, to waste it in defending the West India planters as a body; and he adds that their character is too generally known, too well established, to require it—we would rather say, to permit of it. Why, all through the anti-slavery controversy, England has rung with denunciations of the demoralizing influence which the state of slavery exerted on general manners, and of the all but universal system of concubinage and debauchery by which the honour due to marriage and the general decencies of domestic life were superseded. All of a sudden, we suppose, this Augean stable is cleansed, and become as free from pollution as Paradise itself. Bah! We know better; and so does the editor of the *Colonial Gazette*, only he has not time to tell us so. His joke upon Mr. Scoble does credit to his invention.

### Literary Notice.

*The Fifth Annual Report of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, for the Abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade throughout the World, presented to the General Meeting in Exeter Hall, on Friday, May 17th, 1844. With an Appendix.*

We have great pleasure in introducing this document to the attention of our readers. The Report itself has long been in circulation, through our pages; but the Appendix is entirely new, and contains a large amount of important and interesting matter. We have not room for even an abstract of the contents of the Appendix, but we may say, in one sentence, that it presents the most perfect view of the progress and present state of the anti-slavery question throughout the world, that can anywhere be found. It is a most valuable record of official documents on this interesting subject, as well as a complete storehouse of information. When our friends receive their copies of the Report, which will be forwarded to them immediately, they will do well to direct their attention to the several articles which give so striking an account of the slave-trade, and of slavery, in the different states of the world.

\* Mr. Wallbridge, of course, speaks of the resident planters only.



## TEXAS—THE PROSPECT OF ANNEXATION.

(From the *New York Courier and Enquirer*.)

THE friends of the immediate and unconditional annexation of Texas are become exceedingly alarmed at the prospect that Texas herself may refuse to be thus annexed. The articles so extensively quoted from one or two of the Texan papers, in opposition to annexation, taken by themselves alone, would scarcely warrant the conclusion that this hostility was either very general or very decided among the people. The President of Texas has long been known to be opposed to the proffered union, and the *Register*, in which appeared the first of the hostile articles upon the subject, is his organ. But it has always been understood that the Congress of Texas, which represents more directly and truly the will of the people, was as ardently in favour of annexation as President Jones was against it. So far, indeed, has that body carried its enthusiastic espousal of the measure, that it has refused to receive a few petitions that have been presented in opposition to it.

But it is becoming evident that there is a deeper and more formidable opposition to annexation in Texas than that which arises from the personal feelings of the Executive. The *Richmond Enquirer* of Friday last publishes a letter from Washington, said to be from a "gentleman of high standing," of which the following is an extract:—

"Letters received by this evening's mail direct from Texas, and from those fully acquainted with the state of things there, leave not the least doubt that an extraordinary struggle is going on in Texas between the friends of annexation and the English party, headed by General Houston. Every possible inducement is held out by the English Minister and agents to the people of Texas to reject the proffered terms. Magnificent offers are made, a reaction has taken place, and I feel warranted in saying that the issue is doubtful."

The *Texas Register*, in the article expressing its hostility to the proposed measure of annexation, declared that Texas was "secure in the enjoyment of peace, and in the speedy acquisition of acknowledged independence." These, and other declarations of similar import seem to give colour to the presumption, that a recognition of the independence of Texas has been proffered by Mexico, provided she will maintain her independent position, instead of becoming part of the American Union. That Mexico, notwithstanding her repeatedly-declared intentions to re-conquer her revolted province, may see, in the present posture of affairs, reasons for making such an offer, seems not at all unlikely. It is now sufficiently evident that she must lose Texas. All hope of again subjecting that country to her dominion must by this time have faded away. She has only, therefore, now to consider the practical question, whether the boundary of the United States shall be advanced to the Rio del Norte, and thus the way be opened to California and the Pacific, or whether Texas shall exist as a weak but independent nation between Mexico and the United States, not powerful enough of herself to conquer Mexico, but offering a barrier to the dreaded designs of the United States. There certainly can be but slight doubt as to which of these alternatives she would choose.

In effecting this arrangement, the services of the English and French Ministers may have been employed. It is well known that they have repeatedly been tendered to both Texas and Mexico, for the accomplishment of this object—namely the termination of the war, and the full recognition of Texan independence. Mexico hitherto has rejected them, because she persisted in her intention of subjugating her revolted province. The imminent peril of annexation, whereby it will be lost to her for ever, with the exposure, too, of her other possessions, may easily have induced a change of conduct; and she may now be as eager to accept as hitherto she has been to reject the proffered good offices of the European Powers.

Should this prove to be the case, and should Texas accept the recognition of her independence, she, of course, is lost to the United States beyond recovery, and the whole project of annexation must fall to the ground. It is very easy to clamour against this "interference" of France and England with the affairs of this continent, and it may be difficult to acquiesce in its propriety; but it certainly is not easy to find in it any cause of serious complaint, much less of war. If Texas declines to come into the Union, it is her own act—one which she has a perfect and undoubted right to perform. The motives which induce her thus to decide, are matters with which we have no concern. Every nation pursues that course which she deems most conducive to her interests, and this case forms no exception.

The *Galveston News* is quite as decided in favour of annexation as the *National Register* is against it, and yet the following article from that paper, though urging the measure, indicates that it is doomed to encounter a very decided opposition:—

"The Prospect.—We have already furnished incontestible evidence that the British policy, in opposition to annexation, has so far succeeded, that her Britannic Majesty's Minister has obtained the pledge of President Houston to use his best endeavours to defeat that measure."

"We are told that, upon condition of our renouncing the American Union for ever, the monarchical powers of Europe will then terminate our formidable war with Mexico 'forthwith and compulsively.' The same friendly promise has been made from time to time, for the last seven or eight years, and its repetition just at this particular crisis, when the speedy success of annexation is beyond all reasonable doubt, is exceedingly well timed, in order to create a reaction in the public feeling in this country. We are not told whether the friendly mediation is again to be attended by another 'armistice,' as a necessary preliminary step, to be afterwards 'improved into one of more convenient duration.' We are, however, assured that 'France and England will openly submit to the consideration of our Government and people inducements for us to remain independent.' Such information as this is usually confined to the chief agents of government, as a matter of state secrecy, and is rarely furnished to the public journals, except for the purpose of political influence and foreign counteraction. This announcement is made in the positive and unqualified terms of a negotiator, who has participated in all the cabinet secrets and intrigues of both hemispheres.

"The public need not be surprised should this singular manifesto prove to be the harbinger of party organization, and of great exertions in this country to counteract the labours of our friends in the United States, and to defeat this great measure here, after it has triumphed there. 'We shall see.'"

## ANTI-SLAVERY MEETING AT EDINBURGH.

(From the *Scotsman*.)

On Monday evening, April 15th, a public meeting of the Edinburgh Emancipation Society, and others interested in the anti-slavery cause, was held in the Rev. Mr. M'Gilchrist's church, Rose-street, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the abolitionists who are suffering imprisonment in the United States for aiding their fellow creatures to escape from bondage, and also of denouncing the entire system of slavery throughout the world; but especially of condemning the Coolie emigration and the importation of native Africans into our West India possessions. The meeting was very numerously attended. The Lord Provost was called to the chair. Among those present we observed Bailie Duncan; Councillors Drummond, Neil, Stark, Cruickshank, and Hay; Robert Grieve, Esq., of Noble Hall, George Wilson, Esq., William Alexander, Esq., Dr. Purdie, John Dunlop, Esq., of Brockloch; Revs. Dr. Ritchie, W. L. Alexander, J. R. Campbell, Jonathan Watson, and W. H. Goold.

The Lord Provost said he considered it not only an honour but a high privilege to lend his aid in a cause that had for its object the breaking off the fetters from the slave. It was a melancholy retrospection when they thought of the great efforts which had been made to effect the extinction of this obnoxious system, and that when they were in the hope of this monster evil being swept from the face of the earth, they should feel themselves called upon to deplore its continuance, in its worst state, not in a country under despotic sway, but in a nation which boasted of its liberty, and the foundation of whose constitution was based on the maxim that every man was born equally free, and entitled to the enjoyment of the same civil and religious liberty. Instead of putting slavery down, the Americans had thrown obstacles in the way of its removal. They could not, therefore, but feel grief and indignation that the principles of national liberty should be so outraged in that country as to become almost a recognised and aggravated hypocrisy. It was still more melancholy to think that there was no likely prospect of alleviation from this enormous evil; but while he said this, he trusted in the power, the sovereignty, and government of Him who looked upon oppression with hatred, and who would not permit it to go unpunished. (Applause.) He believed there were none in the meeting but sympathised with those Christian philanthropists who had been exerting themselves to deliver their country from this detested pollution; and he had no doubt that they would readily express their sympathy for them in the sufferings which they had, on that account, been called upon to endure. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. L. ALEXANDER moved the first resolution, which was to the effect that the meeting deplored the degraded condition of nearly seven millions of human beings held in slavery, and that they felt themselves bound to use their best efforts for its removal; and, further, that they protest against the iniquity of slavery in the United States of America, upheld as it was by the churches in that country, and which condemned to unmerited bondage nearly three millions of men entitled to the just protection of the law. He said he would not detain the meeting by entering on the general subject of slavery. He was sure that no audience convened in the city of Edinburgh, after what had passed in former years, required to be enlightened in regard to the enormous evils of slavery. He would assume, therefore, that slavery was a great evil—that it was an encroachment on the rights and liberties of man, and an assumption, on the part of the slave-holder, of a right he never could have received unless by the strong arm of power. (Applause.) It was most melancholy to think that in countries professing Christianity, seven millions of men should be unrighteously held as slaves. It was a terrible fact, after all that had been done in order to put down the slave trade, there was going on at this moment an enormous traffic in that inhuman system—that there were upwards of a hundred thousand Africans annually transported from their native land, in addition to a vast internal slave trade. After referring to the numbers annually imported into the Brazils and Cuba, he alluded to the horrors of the slave trade as portrayed in the writings of such men as Clarkson and Buxton. It depopulated countries—it armed every man's hand against his fellow—subjected the poor slaves to the most intense suffering in the middle passage, and afterwards consigned them to a hopeless bondage, until death, the great deliverer, set them free. All things considered, the system of American slavery was one of the most abominable to be seen on the face of the earth. A most respectable minister in this country, who recently paid a visit to America, had declared that slavery existed there in a more mitigated form than it had done in our West Indian colonies; and that in regard to domestic slaves much kindness was shown to them by their masters. He (Mr. A.) had not been in America, and had consequently no means of observing the truth of this statement; still he must assert, if credit was to be given to accounts given by Americans themselves—by persons of the highest and most unimpeachable authority in that country—this description could not be received as correct. (Applause.) He had before him a series of replies to queries which were addressed by the Anti-Slavery Society in London to persons competent to give correct information on the subject of American slavery. These detailed facts, and nothing but facts. There was no declamation—plain facts were stated, and calculations entered into; and he must say, after reading that book, that he had no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that American slavery was not a more mitigated form of the evil which at one time prevailed in our West Indian colonies. There were three things to which he would direct their attention connected with American slavery. There was, first, the internal slave trade; second, the cruelties practised on the slaves, both in the states where they were produced, and where they were consumed; and, in the last place, there was the fearful fact that the main upholders and profitters by the practice of slavery were men calling themselves Christians!—ministers! men who were combined together in the society of Christian churches! (Applause.) As regarded the internal slave trade, he should mention that the slave states of America were divided into two classes. The one class was composed of what were called the breeding states, and the other of what were called the consuming states—not states which consumed slave labour, but states which consumed slaves. The breeding of slaves was a regular piece of business, in which persons invested capital to carry it on as a means of support and wealth—just the same as people reared horses and pigs in this country. To show how the system was managed, Mr. Alexander read a number of



advertisements which had appeared in the American newspapers, in regard to the institution of menageries for the breeding of slaves—the establishment of general slave agency offices, to which planters from the south were invited to call. There was also one offering the highest cash prices for two hundred negroes. It was also stated in the book to which he had referred, that there were between ninety and a hundred thousand slaves every year transported from the producing states into the consuming states—sometimes by means of vessels regularly advertised to sail on a given day, and reported to have ample accommodation for negroes. They were conveyed also by means of steamers down the Mississippi—stowed away on the deck—and made the subject of the rude jeers and abuse of the crew. Another mode was by means of forced marches, on foot, over land. They were herded together like cattle. Women in every situation of delicacy and weakness were forced to keep pace with the rest of the gang. And to show that the cases were not individual, but general, in which this horrid practice was pursued, Mr. Alexander read extracts proving that the conveyance was conducted in the most open and public manner—in fact, that attention was invited to it. Such was the state of public feeling on the subject that no man had the hardihood to lift up his voice and denounce this wholesale barbarity and crime. He next adverted to the slave auction marts, and feelingly dwelt on the ties of friendship and affection that were broken up by the fall of the auctioneer's hammer. After hearing these things, he was sure they would agree in the sentiments uttered by one of the representatives of this city in the House of Commons, that the internal slave-trade now carried on in America was more odious and barbarous by far than that which was carried on between Africa, Brazil, and Cuba. (Applause). It was fearful to think that not only was this traffic carried on by men professing to be Christians—carried on within a Christian state, and upon their own properties—but that it was carried on by men even within their own families; so that it was no uncommon thing for a man to rear his own children for no other purpose but to make gain of them, by selling them into slavery. What an insult to the Majesty of heaven!—what a pretension to the sacred name of Christianity! With regard to the cruelties practised on the slaves, he would not dwell longer. Their food was poor and their work hard. The average life of the slave was somewhere between five and seven years. They were brought young, and, it might be healthy, from the producing states, and in five or seven years they had ended their miserable days in the consuming states. It was no uncommon thing for Christian ministers to hold slaves, and even for a church to be endowed with slaves. It was also no uncommon thing for slaves to be advertised for sale for the benefit of a missionary society, that the proceeds might be applied to the conversion of the heathen. It might perhaps be said that the fact of Christian ministers possessing slaves would afford a guarantee that they would be well cared for, and kindly treated; but the fact was the very opposite. It would seem as if a man professing to be a Christian, and putting his hand to the work of slavery, gave his conscience such a wrench that it fell asleep ever after. Mr. Alexander then read extracts showing cases where negroes had been whipped so severely as to cause death, and where negroes had been drowned—the inhuman instruments being ministers of the gospel. He also read some incidents connected with the life of a reputed pious lady, who boasted of “being the best hand for whipping a wench in the whole country,” and who invariably administered the castigation on the Sunday mornings, that the slaves might not be rendered unfit for their usual week-day employment. After these statements, he had no doubt the meeting would be ready to accede to the resolution, and protest against the system of slavery in America. But it might be said, What could they do? He thought they could do much. They were not going to call on the Legislature to interfere; but, as members of the great family of man—as professing Christians, they ought to remonstrate against this invasion of the rights and privileges of man—and spurning all national distinctions, to call upon the American churches, in the name of that God who made the freeman and the slave, to desist, and let the oppressed go free. This they could say, and were bound to say, and to continue to say, in every form of language which could most broadly express their meaning, until some better principle arose in the mind of the American slaveholder. He concluded, amidst much applause, by alluding to the nobleness of the work in which they were engaged, and to the happiness it would afterwards give them, if, as in the case of West Indian slavery, their efforts were crowned with success.

The Rev. Mr. GOULD seconded the resolution, and showed that slavery was condemned by, and stood in direct antagonism to, the whole spirit of Scripture. He alluded to the complaint of the slaveholders, as to their being charged with theft; and said he for one echoed the sentiment—designating the traffic in which they were engaged as an organised and sustained system of spoliation and robbery.

Mr. GEORGE W. ALEXANDER, the Treasurer of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, next addressed the meeting. He commenced by expressing the gratification he felt in addressing the inhabitants of so influential a city as Edinburgh on such a subject. The abolitionists in America, he was sorry to say, had been slandered by men who ought to have taken their part. Their labours in behalf of the oppressed slave were not inferior to those of Wilberforce or of Clarkson. He had a very cheering prospect in regard to slavery, when he thought of what had been accomplished by this country in the extinction of that abominable traffic in our West Indian possessions. After tracing the history of slavery in reference to this country, he directed attention to its progress in America, and showed that in the slave states the population had not increased in the same ratio with the states where slavery did not exist. He also demonstrated the same thing in regard to education. He was glad to say that a feeling was beginning to arise, even in the slave states, against this obnoxious system. As an instance of which he alluded to the establishment of an anti-slavery newspaper by a quondam proprietor of slaves. He also adverted to the abolition of the notorious gag rule, through the influence of John Quincy Adams, by which the negroes had now the right of petition. He said it might be laid down as a principle that there was little difference in the character of slavery wherever it existed. Poor feeding, ill clothing, and bad lodging, were among the more prominent hardships to which they were exposed—the result being premature death. In the Brazils there were between two and three millions of

slaves—the largest number in any country in the world, with the exception of America. To supply the great loss of human life which annually occurs there, upwards of 100,000 slaves were annually imported into it. Cuba was more favourable as regarded the waste of human life. The average mortality would be about twelve per cent. In all the French slave colonies the laws of marriage were entirely disregarded; and the social condition of the slaves most miserable. An Anti-Slavery Society had been established in France some ten or twelve years ago, which had done a vast deal of good. And he was glad to say that the French Government were pledged to emancipation, which would, perhaps, be preceded by a short apprenticeship. This would have its influence on the slave-trade in other quarters of the world. In Holland and Denmark the prospects of the anti-slavery cause were highly encouraging. And in Sweden the abolition of this monster evil had been brought before the Diet—the King having given his opinion in favour of it. He had some circumstances to relate in reference to the abuses connected with the Coolie emigration. Doubts had been indicated as to the propriety of placing shackles on free emigration; but when certain circumstances were known, these doubts would be entirely removed. In the first place, the expense of the emigration was to be borne by the inhabitants instead of the planters, for whose benefit the scheme had been devised—a rule which was exceedingly unjust. In the second place, it had hitherto been impossible to procure a fair proportion of the sexes. Out of eighty or ninety thousand Coolies, for instance, nine-tenths of the entire number were males. This he considered to be an unnatural and demoralising system. A vast number of the slaves were also obtained by fraudulent means, which led to an internal slave-trade in the country from whence they were brought. Mr. Alexander condemned the plan adopted in regard to negroes rescued from slavers—first, by taking them to Sierra Leone, and afterwards, if they did not find labour, either to go into the interior of Africa, or proceed to our emancipated colonies. These were the grounds why he objected to emigration from India and from Africa. He trusted that the meeting would not be without its result on America; and that it would serve to extend a knowledge of the slavery question among the people of this country. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. R. CAMPBELL moved the next resolution, which was to the effect that the meeting should extend its sympathy to those who had suffered punishment in the United States, on account of their exertions against the slave-trade. He said they should endeavour to act upon a maxim which obtained at the French revolution, “As we have obtained freedom for ourselves, we cannot rest until freedom be the property of all the world.” Mr. Campbell then proceeded to relate and to comment upon, the indignities and sufferings to which many pious individuals had been subjected in the United States in endeavouring to aid the cause of the oppressed slave. Mr. Fairburn had gone into one of the slave states, where he was hospitably received by a virtuous and pious lady, Miss Webster; and because they were supposed to have a sympathy with the negro, arising out of the circumstance that several negroes had gone amissing about the time of Mr. Fairburn's visit, they were subjected to imprisonment—Miss Webster for a period of two years in the Penitentiary. Mr. Jonathan Walker, charged with aiding and enticing slaves to escape, had been branded in the hand with the letters “SS,” meaning, probably, “slave-stealer,” and further sentenced to stand in the pillory for one hour (with rotten eggs), to be imprisoned for fifteen days, and to pay a fine of one hundred and sixty dollars—besides one hundred and six dollars, as damages. The Rev. C. T. Torrey, indicted for enticing slaves to escape, was brought into court in irons, in presence of his wife and her father. The proof was so bad that his prosecutors had a ruffian brought out of prison to testify that he had heard Mr. Torrey say he had done something to aid a slave to escape. And Mr. Torrey, found guilty on such evidence, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, three months in the Penitentiary, and to be put to hard labour. Mr. Campbell dwelt effectively on the inferences which these facts warranted, and denounced the conduct of those religious men or bodies who said they had no information on these points, or threw out misty insinuations against the martyred friends of the slave; urging strongly the duty of separating from slaveholders and others implicated in the system of slavery.

Mr. ROBERT GRIEVE seconded the motion.

Rev. Mr. WADDELL, of Jamaica, moved the next resolution. With reference to American slavery, he begged to state that no free black from the West Indies could go to the slave states without being arrested; and unless claimed, he was sold to pay expenses. He mentioned an instance in which a negro girl of twelve years of age, who was in his service, was only saved from imprisonment by his promise to leave New Orleans in a few weeks. These blacks were British subjects; and it was the duty of the British Government to protect their rights. The difficulties felt in the West Indies of late years were attributed to the idle and lazy conduct of the blacks; but this he denied. On the contrary, they were a hard-working, industrious, money-making people. He related a number of incidents to prove the truth of what he had advanced, all of which had come under his own observation. During the apprenticeship, wages were at 1s. 6d. a day. The planters wanted, on the emancipation, to reduce them one-half; and there was a cessation of labour till that dispute was settled, by the planters agreeing to give 1s. 6d. a-day, the blacks paying rent for their houses and grounds, or 1s. a-day without payment of rent. The supply of labour was diminished by the withdrawal of women from field labour to domestic occupations, and by the continuance of children at school after they were six years of age—at which period, previously, they had gone to work. Then the negroes in the better employments on estates bought lots for themselves. These were the principal causes which had led to depreciation of the larger estates; but a great deal of the difficulty had arisen from the irregularity of the seasons; for two years the rains which were beneficial in October had fallen in December with injurious effects. Then drought followed for fifteen months; and labour almost ceased. The cause, then, assigned for inundating the country with foreign labourers, was not sufficient to justify such a measure—a measure not only unnecessary, but unjust; for the black labourer paid taxes as well as his white master; and why should those taxes be increased threefold in eight or ten years, in order to bring in emigrants to compete with the native population? Mr. Waddell con-



cluded by referring to the immorality of such a proceeding; alleging that the effect of it would be to bring in a band of barbarians to counteract all the labour spent by the missionaries in the religious instruction of the people. Throughout his address, Mr. Waddell spoke in the highest terms of the negroes of the West Indies, who were quite able to do all the work of the colonies.

Dr. RITCHIE seconded the resolution, and observed that it was a strange thing to hear a minister of the gospel, a professor of theology, surrounded by three hundred of his alumni—say that slavery was not condemned by the word of God. Dr. Cunningham should have recollected what was written, that Christ had come to give liberty to the captive; and that as you would wish others to do to you, so do you to them. Would any man in his senses speak of the Christianity of men who sold their children for slaves, and suffered men and women to be treated as the friends of the slave in America had been? The doctor testified to the high character of the anti-slavery advocates of America, some of whom he had met at the late convention. He stigmatized the Coolie emigration system as the act of Lord Stanley, from whom he never expected any good.

The resolutions having been unanimously adopted, thanks were voted to Mr. Alexander, by Dr. Ritchie, and to the Lord Provost, by Mr. Dunlop; and the meeting then separated.

### Colonial Intelligence.

**DOMINICA.**—Colonel Macdonald, the new Lieutenant-Governor of this colony, has arrived at his station. On the 18th of March he met the Legislature, and addressed to them a speech of which the following is an extract:—"I have taken this early opportunity to notify to you in person my having been appointed by her most gracious Majesty to the office of Lieutenant-Governor of this island; and in first meeting you, it affords me a subject of great satisfaction to be able to congratulate you on the appearance of the crops, which promise a plentiful harvest, as also the tranquillity which pervades the island in general." To this the House of Assembly responded in the following terms:—"It is with real pleasure this House learns of the favourable appearance of the crops, and of the promise of a plentiful harvest. The tranquillity which pervades throughout the island is a matter of sincere congratulation to this House; and this House trusts that under your Excellency's auspices, and a firm and impartial administration of the law, peace and good order will continue undisturbed."—*Dominican*.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—SETTLEMENT OF THE SUGAR DUTIES.—Generally speaking, our commercial and agricultural people are highly satisfied with what the Minister has done. Not that they consider the protection afforded to the British West India colonies to be so great as it might have been; but it is consolatory to them to believe that the question of the imposts upon their produce has been put to rest for many years to come; they know the worst now, and they can with some sort of confidence and certainty lay their plans for the future.—*Guiana Times*.

**PLANTAINS.**—Speaking of the injurious neglect of the Plantain cultivation in this colony, the *Guiana Times* says:—"On no sugar estate where there is an abundant supply of it is any difficulty experienced in procuring steady labour."

**SUGAR CULTURE.**—The returns of the crop of 1844, which we published last week, exhibit an improvement in the productive powers of the colony. The sugar crop of 1844 was larger than that of 1843. The increase, however, has not, we suspect, been very regularly derived. While some estates, in favourable situations, have added to their returns, others, less fortunate, have either, we fear, remained stationary or retrograded. Though, we believe, many estates did not pay their expenses, others made very large crops. Plantation Lusignan, for example, on the east coast, made as many as 704 large hogsheads of sugar: while again plantation Everton, in Berbice, is said to have produced even a larger nominal return—800 hogsheads, but which were probably lighter than those of the former property. These are ample crops, and, no doubt, satisfactory to the owners, and are larger than might be expected in the present state of the labour-market.—*Royal Gazette*. May not the solution of this enigma be found in the more economical and equitable management of the prosperous estates?—*Ed. A. S. Reporter*.

**MAURITIUS.**—THE CIVIL COMMISSARIES.—In Mauritius, where the people make little show of their feelings, the Government does what it would not dare to do anywhere else; it tolerates oppression and tyranny, and even lends itself to it. What sort of men are called to fill the office of Commissary Civil Justice of Peace? Certain favourites, certain protégés of the rich, whose very humble servants they are, because of the protection they have received, and without which they would risk the loss of their places. From this results a blind submission to the will and caprices of these rich men, and a great abuse of power towards the poor, towards those who do not know their own rights, and cannot resist with sufficient energy. The country magistrates are altogether under the influence of the plantocratic aristocracy, and this accounts for the shameful injustice to which the people are subject.

We shall cite here only two instances, both which occurred in the Poudre d'Or district, in support of our allegations, but which we could multiply, did space permit, to volumes. But these two are only part and parcel of the scandalous rapacity and daring contempt of justice by which the civil commissaries in general are distinguished. Three Indians, one from Mr. Joseph Hardy's estate, and the other two from that of Mr. René Dumont, were taken in the act of carrying pigs from one estate to the other, which the law on the epizootic forbids. They were arrested by the guards, and taken before the civil commissary; they were fined, and the pigs confiscated. So far well. This was according to law. But to whom belonged the profit of the confiscation? To the guards without doubt; to those who had arrested the transgressors. But this was not done. We are ashamed to say it, in the presence of many persons, Mr. Ravel gave them to the guard, Edward Dupont, to be kept by him, and shared between them. Here is a manifest violation of the law. A

partnership between a commissary and a guard! What an example! And what confidence can one have in such a magistrate?

About three weeks ago some Indians, in the service of Mr. Baudot, were attending the funeral of one of their comrades. They were passing quietly along the high road, near Mr. Ravel's premises, where they met Dr. Wiche's carriage, and the horse took fright. What did Mr. Ravel? He ran out with a whip, and struck right and left among these men, quite innocent of what had happened. The Indians were so exasperated at this brutality that they put down the corpse, and were very near using striking arguments to convince this man of the gross impropriety of his conduct. These two cases must suffice for the present, but let these gentry beware: "ce qui est différé ne sera pas perdu."—*Mauritius Watchman*.

### Foreign Intelligence.

**UNITED STATES.**—ACT OF MAGNANIMITY.—An important legal decision has been published, in regard to the will of the late John Randolph, of Roanoke, in Virginia. This eccentric but eloquent man had a large estate, and more than 300 slaves. Several wills were extant, but all were contested by the heirs-at-law on the ground of alleged insanity. By the will which gave freedom to the blacks, a large part of the property was left to Judge Leigh. This led to an act of magnanimity on his part which is worthy of record. He was the principal witness to the sanity of the testator at the date of the instrument. In order that his testimony might be available, he instantly relinquished all claim as a legatee, and thus secured the emancipation of the slaves; for, by a decision of January 12, the will of 1821, with its codicil, is established. This event takes place in the heart of the tobacco district of the most populous slave-holding state in the Union.—*American Correspondent of Northern Worker*.

**EXTRADITION TREATY.**—A correspondence is published between Mr. Calhoun, Secretary of State, and Mr. Edward Everett, Minister to England, concerning seven slaves, who are alleged to have committed robbery, arson, and murder in East Florida, and afterwards to have escaped to Nassau, New Providence. The grand jury in Florida returned bills of indictment against them, and the U. S. Marshal went to Nassau, and made a demand for the slaves on the ground of their being criminals according to the indictment; and claimed, therefore, that they should be delivered up under the treaty which provides for the mutual surrender of criminals. The Chief Justice, however, refused to surrender them on the ground that the evidence was not such as was required by Act of Parliament; that an indictment *per se* can never be received as evidence; that the mere fact that an American jury thought the slaves guilty is not enough, but the grounds on which they thought them guilty are also necessary.

Mr. Calhoun writes to Mr. Everett about it, and makes a slaveholder's argument of course; and Mr. Everett discusses the matter with Lord Aberdeen, as the slaveholder's attorney. Lord Aberdeen told Mr. Everett that he would sustain the opinion of the colonial Court, that an indictment was not of itself evidence. He admitted that slaves were moral agents; but there might be a difference in the laws of different countries as to what constitutes murder: and her Majesty's Government would not bind itself as to action on future cases.—*Liberator*.

**AFRICA.**—SLAVE FACTORIES ON THE CONGO.—The *Times* of Saturday publishes the following extract of a letter addressed by Mr. Robert Jamieson, of Liverpool, to Colonel Edward Nicolls, the late governor of the island of Fernando Po, showing a frightful increase of slave factories to have taken place on the river Congo:—"I have just seen a letter from the captain of a merchant vessel in the Congo river, in which he represented the banks of that river to be covered with slave factories, and the British flag to be held in such detestation by the slave-dealers that he did not consider his vessel and cargo in safety amongst them, they actually threatening to destroy both. Their number must be great (chiefly Spaniards and Portuguese,) for there are not less than twenty or thirty factories upon the banks of the river, the short distance the captain of the vessel alluded to has ascended; and he is under positive apprehensions for his safety were he to proceed further. If any doubts be entertained of the truth of this statement, they will be removed by application to Mr. Horsfall, of Liverpool, who is the owner of the vessel and cargo."

**DENMARK.**—The committee charged with the consideration of the petition for the abolition of slavery which was presented to the Provincial Estates assembled at Roeskilde, in October last, have determined that they can make no report. The committee consisted of the Bishop of Mynster, Count Knuth, and Major Prætorius. Count Knuth, in the last sitting but one of the States (the 20th of December,) expressed himself as follows:—"As a member of the committee to which a proposition for the emancipation of the negro slaves was referred, I have to say, on behalf of the committee, that they have not been able to procure the information necessary to effect their object. They have taken a great deal of pains to acquaint themselves with the state of things, and to obtain information from competent persons. But it will doubtless be easily understood that the members of the committee do not themselves possess any particular knowledge of the state of things; and that they have not been able effectually to contend with the difficulties in their way. On this account they have arrived at the conclusion, that this important question cannot at present be entered on—the committee not being able to prepare a document which may be sufficient, in all respects, to accomplish the object confided to them." Another petition, however, will, we are assured, be presented on the same subject, in the next assembly of the States.

Printed by WILLIAM TYLER, of 25, Duncan-terrace, Islington, in the county of Middlesex, printer, and CHARLES REED, of Cambridge-heath, Hackney, in the said county of Middlesex, printer, at their printing-office, No. 5, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West in the city of London; and published by LANCELOT WILD, of No. 13, Catherine-street, in the parish of St. Mary-le-Strand, in the county of Middlesex, publisher, at 13, Catherine-street, Strand, as aforesaid. Wednesday, April 30, 1845.